

Message Text

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11

ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1221

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICAL USE BUENOS AIRES 3416

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ECOM, ILO, AR

SUBJ: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROBLEMS THREATEN DEPARTURE OF
ILO DELEGATION

1. INABILITY NATIONAL LABOR LEADERSHIP AND MINECON TO AGREE
ON GENERAL LEVEL WAGE INCREASES UNDER NEW COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
CONTRACTS TO BECOME EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, THREATENS TO DPELAY
DEPARTURE PROMINENT MEMBERS LABOR DELEGATION TO ILO. ALTHOUGH
GOA OFFICIALLY NOT SETTING LIMITS ON WAGE INCREASES, LABOR
UNIONS UNABLE TO CONCLUDE BARGAINING ON WAGE INCREASES
UNTIL SOME AGREEMENT ON LEVEL IS REACHED WITH MINECON.
IN VIEW DETERIORATED SITUATION NATIONAL ECONOMY, MINECON
HOLDING OUT FOR INCREASES IN 15-20 PC RANGE. LABOR INSISTING
IT CANNOT ACCEPT LESS THAN 30 PC AND THAT EVEN THAT AMOUNT
WILL CREATE MAJOR PROBLEMS FOR LABOR LEADERSHIP WITH MEMBER-
SHIP.

2. ILO DELEGATION HEAD, CGT SEC GEN HERRERAS, AND 62 ORGANI-
ZATIONS HEAD LORENZO MIGUEL, STATED PUBLICLY THEY WOULD BE
UNABLE LEAVE FOR GENEVA UNTIL COMPLETION COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
NEGOTIATIONS. LABATT ADVISED BY KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE, WHO
ALSO MEMBER ILO DELEGATION, THAT LORENZO MIGUEL HAS ADVISED
OTHER LABOR LEADERS THAT HE WILL BE UNABLE TO LEAVE UNLESS
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AVERAGE INCREASE ALLOWED IS AT LEAST 40 PC. CASILDO HERRERAS

WILL ALSO FIND IT EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT TO LEAVE COUNTRY IF
FINAL RESOLUTION NOT CONSIDERED SATISFACTORY BY LABOR LEADERSHIP.

3. EMBASSY ADVISED BY SOURCE CLOSE TO HERRERAS THAT HE HAS
THREATENED TO RESIGN AS HEAD OF CGT IF LABOR LEADERSHIP
FORCED TO ACCEPT MINECON GOMEZ MORALES' PROPOSALS. ALTHOUGH
SITUATION APPEARS CRITICAL, WE ANTICIPATE COMPROMISE SOLUTION
NOT REQUIRING RESIGNATION EITHER GOMEZ MORALES OR HERRERAS.
NONETHELESS, IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT 40 PC FIGURE SUGGESTED
BY LORENZO MIGUEL WILL BE APPROVED. THEREFORE, IT QUESTIONABLE
THAT ENTIRE CGT DELEGATION WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND OPENING
ILO MEETING.
HILL

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